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PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1994-1995

United Nations telecommunications system

Draft resolution submitted by the Chairman following informal consultations

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations telecommunications system 1/ and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, 2/

1. Emphasizes the importance of implementing a cost-effective global telecommunications system that would result in a reduction in the cost of such services, as presented in the report of the Secretary-General;

2. Takes note of the recommendations and observations of the Advisory Committee as contained in its report;

3. Approves at this stage only the proposal to establish a European hub station to be situated at the most cost-effective location and the proposal to upgrade the New York station with only essential associated works within existing resources in both the regular budget and the peace-keeping special accounts on a fifty-fifty basis without constituting a precedent for the future financing of this project;

1/ A/C.5/48/11/Rev.1 and Corr.1.

2/ A/48/7/Add.9.

4. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report, no later than 1 November 1994, setting out alternative ways of implementing the proposals contained in his report with a comprehensive evaluation, including comparative costs, based on bids obtained through the international competitive bidding procedures and in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations;

5. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Executive Heads of the funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, to develop plans, including sharing the capital costs thereof, for the installation of further earth stations as necessitated by the various United Nations activities, to avoid duplication and to maximize the benefits to all the organizations concerned;

6. Also requests the Secretary-General to ascertain and report on the requirements of the funds and programmes and the specialized agencies for the use of the global network and to propose appropriate formulas for the equitable sharing, between the regular budget and the peace-keeping special accounts and, as appropriate, the funds, programmes and specialized agencies, of the capital costs of implementing the global network and the administrative overhead of operating the network;

7. Further requests the Secretary-General to report on all aspects, including legal considerations, related to the establishment, operation and maintenance of a global telecommunications system and to ensure, in consultation with the Member States in which United Nations telecommunications facilities and equipment, including those in support of United Nations peace-keeping operations, will be located, that the establishment, maintenance and operation of a system owned and operated by the United Nations will be permitted without compensation;

8. Requests the Secretary-General, in presenting the costs of the global telecommunications system, to reflect all costs related to the provision of telecommunications services to peace-keeping operations.